

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A connection data change device, comprising:

a connection data management part configured to manage managing connection data for connection connecting an associated switching unit with an external another switching unit; and a change operation part configured to change changing the connection data so that the connection with the external other switching unit is changed to a fixed connection type or a variable connection type,

wherein said change operation part changes the connection to the external other switching unit from to the variable connection type when the connection is made, and to the fixed connection type upon receiving a request to change the connection to the external switching unit after the connection is completed.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The connection data change device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said change operation part changes the connection with the external other switching unit to the fixed or variable connection type in accordance with a command input from an outside.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The connection data change device as claimed in claim 1, comprising:

a first detection part configured to detect detecting the external other connected switching unit;

a first message compilation part configured to generate generating a message controlling
a said change operation part of the external other detected switching unit; and
a first transmission part configured to transmit transmitting the message to the external
other detected switching unit.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The connection data change device as claimed in claim 3,
further comprising an a first analysis part configured to receive an incoming receiving the
message from the external switching unit and to analyze analyzing contents thereof, the
incoming message controlling the change operation part of the switching unit.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The connection data change device as claimed in claim 1,
further comprising a release part configured to change changing the connection with the external
other switching unit from the fixed connection type to the variable connection type and to release
releasing the connection with the external other switching unit.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The connection data change device as claimed in claim 5,
further comprising:

a second detection part configured to detect detecting the external other connected
switching unit;

a second message compilation part configured to generate generating a message
controlling a said release part of the other detected external switching unit;

a second transmission part configured to transmit transmitting the message to the other
detected switching unit; and

~~a second~~ an analysis part configured to receive an incoming receiving the message from the external ~~other~~ switching unit and to analyze analyzing contents of the incoming message, the incoming message controlling the release part of the connection data change device.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The connection data change device as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a release reason storage part configured to store storing a valid release reason for releasing the connection with the external ~~other~~ switching unit.

Claim 8 (currently amended) A connection data change method, comprising the steps of:

extracting connection data for connection of an associated switching unit with an external ~~another~~ switching unit; and

changing the extracted connection data so that the connection with the external ~~other~~ switching unit is changed to a fixed connection type or a variable connection type, wherein the connection to the external ~~other~~ switching unit is changed from to the variable connection type ~~when the connection is made, and to the fixed connection type after the connection is completed upon receiving a request to change the connection to the external~~ switching unit.

Claim 9 (currently amended) A switching unit, comprising:

a connection data management part configured to manage managing connection data for connection with an external ~~another~~ switching unit; and

a change operation part configured to change changing the connection data so that the connection with the external other switching unit is changed to a fixed connection type or a variable connection type,

wherein said change operation part changes the connection to the external other switching unit from to the variable connection type when the connection is made, and to the fixed connection type after the connection is completed upon receiving a request to change the connection to the external switching unit.

Claim 10 (currently amended) The switching unit as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:

a first detection part configured to detect detecting the external other connected switching unit;

a first message compilation part configured to generate generating a message controlling said a change operation part of the other detected external switching unit;

a first transmission part configured to transmit transmitting the message to the other detected external switching unit; and

a first an analysis part configured to receive an incoming receiving the message and to analyze analyzing contents thereof, the incoming message controlling the change operation part of the switching unit.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The switching unit as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:

a release part configured to change changing the connection with the external ether switching unit from the fixed connection type to the variable connection type and to release releasing the connection with the external ether switching unit; and

a release reason storage part configured to store storing a valid release reason for releasing the connection with the external ether switching unit.